HOWARD COUNTY BRAC TASK FORCE
BRAC BIT: # 83
DATE: 28 June 2010
SUBJECT(S): Cyber Command, Campus Development Project at Fort Meade EIS
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Discussion:
We all know that the Fort Meade BRAC action is well under way. The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), Defense Media Activity (DMA) and Adjudication Co-location Buildings are on schedule and the first DISA contingent will be in their new building in January 2011. The total square feet of these three buildings total approximately 1.3 million square feet. But, when it comes to Fort Meade, BRAC construction, this is just the beginning. The installation has a number of new buildings and building expansions on the books, the biggest being the construction of the "Cyber Campus" on the remainder of the golf courses. This campus will consist of DISA, DMA, Cyber Command Headquarters and elements of NSA. In fact the NSA portion of this campus may total up to 5.8 million square feet of new construction. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this action is the focus of this BRAC BIT.
In July, 2009, the Department of Defense issued a document announcing that the scoping process would begin for the Fort Meade Campus Development Project. These types of announcements are published in the Federal Register. If you do not get home delivery of the Federal Register, these announcements can be easily missed! The Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee (RGMC) responded (Attachment # 1) to this scoping document and made ourselves available to assist in the process. Our assistance was not requested.
The second phase of this process is the issuance of the EIS draft document. Under contract to the Department of Defense, the HDR Engineering and Consulting Company out of Omaha NB, completed the draft EIS and put it in the National Register on 25 June. The public now has 45 days, from 2 July, to make formal comment. At the end of the 45 days, there will be a public forum for additional comment. See the Federal Register document at attachment # 2.
Why should we be interested in this EIS? The following extract from the Federal Register tells us why:

"Best Management Practices and Mitigation Measures. The
Proposed Action has the potential to result in adverse
environmental impacts. The Proposed Action includes best
management practices, mitigation measures, and design concepts
to avoid adverse impacts to the extent practicable. Unavoidable
impacts would be minimized or compensated for, to the extent
practicable. In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality
regulations, mitigation measures must be considered for adverse
environmental impacts. Once a particular impact associated with
a proposed action is considered significant, then mitigation
measures must be developed where it is feasible to do so."

How can we secure a copy to review? According to the Federal Register at attachment #2, we have to go to the Fort Meade Library or send a message to request a copy. The RGMC has asked NSA to place a copy on the internet. We are waiting for their reply. More to follow on this Draft EIS.

If you have questions about this BRAC BIT, please email kmenser@howardcountymd.gov
If you have questions about this EIS, contact Mr. Jeffrey Williams at jdwill2@nsa.gov
If you want a copy of this EIS, please email CampusEIS@hdrinc.com or call 301-688-2970.